

**(Washington, DC)** Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following statement in response to the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that recently hit Haiti.

“My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Haiti. Just when we thought Haiti was in the clear after a mild hurricane season, yet another natural disaster has rocked our hemisphere’s poorest country. The people of Haiti simply can’t seem to catch a break,” Hastings stated. “While I cannot understate the urgency with which the United States and the international community must provide humanitarian aid, this most recent disaster emphasizes the vital need for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals currently residing in the United States.

“This tragedy sadly highlights the fragile state of Haiti’s physical and economic infrastructure, and the people of Haiti simply cannot afford to wait for the United States to grant them this long overdue assistance,” Hastings continued. “By granting them TPS, Haitians currently in the United States would be able to legally work and contribute to their country’s recovery. It is not only immoral, but irresponsible to continue to deny Haitians TPS.”

Hastings is a leader in the fight to end double-standard immigration practices as they pertain to Haitian migrants. He is the author of **H.R. 144**, *the Haitian Protection Act*, legislation which would designate Haitian nationals in the United States as eligible for TPS, and he recently introduced

**H.Con.Res. 165**

, a bipartisan, concurrent resolution expressing Congress’ support for TPS. Hastings has been calling for the extension of TPS to Haitian nationals for years and has been continuously engaged with the current and previous administrations on this matter.

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.*

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